DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 424 491 CG 028 766

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TITLE	Theraplay: Helping Parents and Children Build Better Relationships through Attachment-Based Play. Second Edition.
ISBN	ISBN-0-7879-4302-9
PUB DATE	1999-00-00
NOTE	434p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Jossey-Bass Publishers, 350 Sansome St., San Francisco, CA 94104; 415-433-1740; Tel: 415-433-1767, and 800-956-7739 (Toll Free); Fax: 800-605-2665(Toll Free); Web site: http://www.josseybass.com
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Guides - Non-Classroom (055)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Adolescents; *Attachment Behavior; Caregiver Child Relationship; Children; Communication (Thought Transfer); Early Childhood Education; Family Counseling; *Parent Child Relationship; *Play Therapy

ABSTRACT

Theraplay, modeled on the natural, playful patterns of healthy interaction between parent and child, produces remarkable change in a short time for troubled families. It achieves its success by aggressively addressing four serious problems that prevent the development of the secure attachment relationship essential to healthy development: (1) inadequate structure in daily experience; (2) too little personal engagement; (3) insufficient empathic, nurturing touch; and (4) failure to provide the right kinds of challenge. Part 1 provides an overview of the method through the following components: (1) "Learning the Basics of the Theraplay Method"; and (2) "Understanding Why Theraplay Is Effective." Part 2 considers strategies: (3) "Structuring Theraplay Treatment"; and (4) "Working with the Child"; and (5) "Working with Parents or Other Caretakers." Part 3 deals with Theraplay applications: (6) "Problems in Regulation"; (7) "Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders"; (8) "Physical Disabilities"; (9) "Children Who Have Been Abused and Traumatized"; (10) "Children Who are Adopted or in Foster Care" (S. Lindaman); (11) "Adolescents"; and (12) "Group Theraplay" (P. Rubin). Appendixes include: (A) "Procedures for Obtaining Certification as a Theraplay Therapist"; (B) "Marschak Interactive Method"; and (C) "Theraplay Activities by Dimension." Recent research on attachment, autism, stress and trauma, and new thinking on child development is integrated in this revised edition. (EMK)

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